



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Public Instruction  
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

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\*\*\***NEWS RELEASE**\*\*\*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DPI 2008-108

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

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## Hearing scheduled on rules for master educator grants

MADISON—The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction will conduct a hearing from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 23, in Room 041 of the GEF 3 Building, 125 South Webster Street, Madison, to take public testimony on emergency and proposed permanent rules related to grants for national teacher certification and master educator licensure.

In its 2007-09 biennial budget, the department requested expansion of Wisconsin's grant program for national teacher certification to allow educators receiving a Wisconsin Master Educator License to receive the same grants as teachers earning national board certification. Additionally, to address the needs of high-poverty schools that have difficulty attracting highly qualified teachers, the department proposed doubling the grant award (\$5,000, rather than \$2,500) to educators applying for continuing grants, if they were employed in a school in which at least 60 percent of the school's pupil population is eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.

The proposed rules specify that school psychologists, school counselors, and school social workers, who are not working as administrators, are eligible for grants; that teachers and other eligible school staff must be working a minimum of 40 percent time for at least 180 days in a school year; and continuing education requirements for master educators are the same as those for national board certified teachers. Additionally, educators may renew their national certification or Wisconsin master educator license and continue receiving grants.

Grants for state-certified master educators will be awarded to those who were licensed on or after July 1, 2005. This portion of the proposed rules will accommodate those who participated in the pilot program for state master educator certification, awarding them the same nine-year stipend as national board certified teachers and future master educators. Grants to educators working in high-poverty schools will be awarded to those applying on or after July 1, 2007.

(more)

The hearing site is fully accessible to people with disabilities. A copy of the administrative rules and fiscal estimate are available at <http://dpi.wi.gov/pb/rulespg.html>. Copies of these materials also are available by sending an e-mail request to [lori.slauson@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:lori.slauson@dpi.wi.gov) or by writing to Lori Slauson, administrative rules and federal grants coordinator, DPI, 125 South Webster Street, P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707-7841. Written comments on the proposed rules may be submitted via U.S. mail or e-mail to the addresses above no later than July 29 and will receive the same consideration as testimony presented at the hearing.

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**NOTE:** This news release is available electronically at [http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2008\\_108.pdf](http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2008_108.pdf).